

During some excavations which were in progress at the Taunton Union Workhouse, an old tobacco pipe was dug up, on which was inscribed "John Hunt, 1561." It is in an excellent state of preservation, and is stated to be the oldest specimen of a pipe known to be in existence.

AN OPERATIVE'S CUR. —There is one serious drawback to the enjoyment of the beauties of the Japanese country, and that is the intolerable ariat which is continually offered to the eyes of the tourist. It is not unusual to form the opinion of this city is carried out on the backs of men and horses, to be thrown upon the fields; and, if you would avoid the over-powering nuisance, you must walk hunched over in hand ready to shut out the ariat which assails you. By A. L. M. D.

SUSPECTED POISONING.—An alleged case of poisoning is exciting great attention in Gloucestershire. In January last, an inquest was held respecting the death of a Mrs. Mason, the wife of a physician, who had been taken ill of an overdose of mandrake, taken for rheumatism. Specimens having been excreted, Dr. Mason and the medical man who attended the lady were taken before the magistrates on the 27th Feb., at Newnham, and after a lengthened investigation still the record were permitted to stand.

INQUIRIES.—"Papa Lourenco the READER.—"Unhappy Ireland" excluded the stranger. "Can nothing ever save her from herself?" "Yes," replied Donald. "One thing, and one only, can save Ireland—The humbling revolts of the Church, law and the lawless and a British government and a British resident in it, upon our shores. There is no people in the world with a higher sense of loyalty than the Irish. But as surely as these are denied us, so surely will there be a repeat of the Union, and a recall of the King to it. The people are fully rousing, both in name and influence." —*Frances A. Teller.* By Stewart French, author of "Recitals of Irish Life."

BALANCE-SHEET FOR 1870.—In the year 1870 the Customs and Excise of the United Kingdom produced £1,200,000,000 in the Exchequer, and £1,200,000,000 in the Revenue, and the amount of the taxes £2,371,000,000; property tax, £2,460,000; Post Office, £2,455,000; telephone service, £200,000; Crown Funds (net), £279,000; Miscellaneous, £2,445,000; making a total of £2,385,353. The exports of the United Kingdom amounted to £1,200,000,000, and the imports £1,200,000,000; of which the former duty, £213,740,000 for the navy; £29,776,441 for the navy; £11,524,667 civil government; £29,418,621 of coast, including small packet service and telegraph service; making a total of £2,818,919. The result is an excess of imports over exports, to the amount of £818,568. The amount of £2,000,000 expended on fortifications, but this is not a charge on the year's income, but was provided for by the creation of annuities, which will appear year by year as part of the charge for the national debt.

NOTICE.—*TO AMERICA.*—American agents, who are citizens in Iowa, extending for the projected Dubuque and Minnesota railroad in the hunches at the foot of a bluff discovered recently some caves and rock chambers, and, on raising a foot stool, a vault filled with human skeletons of various ages. A large number of these, eight inches high, were found buried in the sand on the wall as indicating that the skeletons belonged to a people who worshipped that luminosity; and the representation of a man with a dove stepping out of a hole in the wall, and the figure of a dove with a dove's wing, the latter skeleton clutched a pearl ornament, and traces of cloth were found crumpled at the feet of the remains. Many copper implements were found, and it is thought that the Lake Superior miners may have been working at an early period. The remains were to be removed to the Iowa Institute of Arts and Sciences at Dubuque.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.—APRIL 26TH, EVENING.—The drug market has kept steady throughout the day, with a moderate native demand for Pueraria, Senna, &c., and a small demand for Senna to \$20.50; Pueraria, 1/2 oz. of the 4th and 5th cuts to \$20.50; Senna to \$25.50; Mallow of first quality \$330 to \$35, quoted, cash and credit.

APRIL 27TH, MORNING.—No change in the drug market. Banks draw largely on Tuesday and on Friday at 250/- but since the Comptroller refused all tenders over 4/4, 30 days' sight, the Bank rates have fallen, and are at 4/4 to 4/4, and 230.

There is no change in the rates. Banks cash on account, old at 26 to 26½, and new at 30 to 30½. Fire shares are steady; Hongkong at \$275, China at \$34 to \$35, and Victoria at \$36 to \$47. The allotment letters of the Chinese Insurance Company were sent out yesterday, and the share and \$75 to 80 per cent. discount, now 100. The 100 per cent. shares have 100/- at 60 per cent. discount, closing firm with buyers at this rate. Steam-boats were weak at 33 per cent. premium, and Docks at 40 per cent. discount.

EXCHANGE.—On LONDON.—Bank Bills, 5 to 8 months' sight, 4/4; Bank Bills, 6 to 8 months' sight, 4/5; Credits, at 6 months' sight, 4/5; Documentary Bills, at 6 months' sight, 4/5; Bills on demand, 4/4; Bills on demand, 4/4.

On NEW YORK.—Private, 5 months' sight, —; on BOMBAY.—Bank 3 days' sight, 230; on CALCUTTA.—Bank 3 days' sight, 230; on CHINA.—Bank 3 days' sight, 78; Bank, 15 days' sight, —; Private, 30 days' sight, 74.

SHARES.—Hongkong Bank Shares, Old—36 to 36½ per cent. premium; New—30 to 30½ per cent. premium.

Union Insurance Society of Canton, new shares \$1,500 per share premium.

Other Traders' Insurance Company's Shares—\$3,000 per share premium.

China and Japan Marine Insurance—Its 48 per share premium.

Chinese Insurance Company—\$75 per share premium.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$25 per share premium.

China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$54 per share premium.

Victoria Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$46 to \$47 per share premium.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—7½ per cent. premium.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Bonds—35 per cent. premium.

Shanghai Steam Navigation Company—Its 35 per cent. premium.

China and Straits Steamship Company—par.

China and Straits Steam Navigation Company—Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$30 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—37½ per cent. discount.

Hongkong Distillery Company—10 per cent. premium nominal.

Indo-Chinese Sugar Company—par.

SALES ON APRIL 26TH, 1871.—As reported by Chinese.

White Sarsaparilla—\$100 per cwt.

Vessels on the Berth.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY, AND FOOCHOW.
THE Steamer:

"KWANG-TUNG."

Captain Pittman, will have immediate despatch for the above port.

FOR Freight or Passage apply to

DOUGLAS LAPPÉAUX & Co.

17th British Steamer, 29th April, 1871.

FOR Freight or Passage apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.

1st 708 East Point, 26th April, 1871.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES

PAQUEBOT POST FRANCAIS.

THE Company's Steamer:

"PHASE."

Capt. Varangot, will be despatched for SHANGHAI (Direct).

shortly after the arrival of the next French Mail.

J. BERTHARD, Principal Agent, 17th 704 Hongkong, 25th April, 1871.

FOR BANGKOK

THE American Steamer:

"LUZON."

C. O. Williams, Master, will leave for the above port on the 25th inst.

FOR Freight or Passage, apply to

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.

1st 638 Hongkong, 24th April, 1871.

FOR BANGKOK

THE British Steamer:

"MARS."

expected about the 26th instant, will have immediate despatch for the above port.

FOR Freight or Passage, apply to

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.

1st 638 Hongkong, 24th April, 1871.

NOTICE.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES

PAQUEBOT POST FRANCAIS.

THE Company's Steamer:

"GODAVERY."

Capt. Fouche, will be despatched for YOKOHAMA (Direct).

shortly after the arrival of the next French Mail.

J. BERTHARD, Principal Agent, 17th 664 Hongkong, 19th April, 1871.

FOR MANILA

THE Spanish Brig:

"VILLA DE RIVADAVIA."

Capt. Castillo, will be despatched for the above port on or about the 1st proximo.

FOR Freight or Passage, apply to

BRANDAO & Co.

1st 632 Hongkong, 24th April, 1871.

FOR MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY.

THE A 1 British Clipper Ship:

"ARGUS OF ARGYLL."

Capt. MacKenzie, having the greater portion of her cargo engaged, will have a quick despatch for the above port.

FOR Freight or Passage, apply to

ROZARIO & Co.

1st 667 Hongkong, 20th April, 1871.

FOR MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY.

THE A 1 American Barque:

"ARQUES."

Capt. Frost, will have quick despatch for the above port.

FOR Freight, apply to

OYMPHANT & Co.

1st 603 Hongkong, 8th April, 1871.

FOR MELBOURNE (Direct).

THE A 1 British Barque:

"AUREOLA."

Capt. Frost, will have quick despatch for the above port.

FOR Freight, apply to

OYMPHANT & Co.

1st 603 Hongkong, 8th April, 1871.

FOR MELBOURNE (Direct).

THE A 1 American Barque:

"OTAGO."

Capt. Frost, will have quick despatch for the above port.

FOR Freight, apply to

OYMPHANT & Co.

1st 603 Hongkong, 28th March, 1871.

FOR PORTLAND, OREGON.

THE A 1 American Barque:

"EDWARD JAMES."

Patterson, Master, will have early despatch for the above port.

FOR Freight or Passage, apply to

RUSSELL & Co.

1st 179 Hongkong, 28th January, 1871.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

THE A 1 American Barque:

"ROZARIO."

Capt. Synder, will have quick despatch for the above port.

FOR Freight or Passage, apply to

ROZARIO & Co.

1st 529 Hongkong, 27th March, 1871.

FOR MELBOURNE, via DUNEDIN.

THE A 1 British Clipper-ship:

"GODFREY."

Capt. Frost, having a great portion of her cargo engaged, will have a quick despatch for the above port.

FOR Freight or Passage, apply to

ROZARIO & Co.

1st 536 Hongkong, 18th April, 1871.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

THE A 1 American Barque:

"GODFREY."

Patterson, Master, will have early despatch for the above port.

FOR Freight or Passage, apply to

RUSSELL & Co.

1st 579 Hongkong, 4th April, 1871.

FOR MELBOURNE (Direct).

THE A 1 American Barque:

